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ILLINOIS

Mississippi Palisades

STATE PARK



CONSERVATION

THE PARK

Mississippi Palisades State Park is located near the confluence of the Apple and Mississippi rivers in northwestern Illinois, 4 miles north of Savanna in Carroll County. The 2550 acre state park has scenic beauty as well as a diversity of recreational opportunities. The name Palisades was given to the steep limestone bluffs along the Mississippi River because of the resemblance to similar geological formations on the Hudson River. Bluffs and rock palisades overlooking the Mississippi River, hillside prairies and wooded uplands provide a haven for those who seek outdoor enjoyment.

HISTORY

The original Park purchase was made in 1929 with the acquisition of 420 acres. In 1931 an additional 110 acres were purchased to bring the total to 530. This original acreage contains the unique features that meet the criteria to make this area eligible as a registered National Landmark. It was so designated to 1973 by the Department of the Interior. This original area was where the CCC's did most of their fine work. In 1940 the Department bought an additional 360 acres. This is now the campgrounds. Acquisition has continued over the years until the Park presently totals 2550 acres.

THE NATURAL SCENE

Mississippi Palisades State Park is located in a geologic division known as the "Driftless Area." This unglaciated topography contains steep limestone bluffs dissected by wooded ravines. Many unusual rock formations are found in the park. Indian Head, (see cover), is a large rock outcropping from the bluff line. The rock face with its aquiline features was sculptured by the natural process of wind and water erosion. Equally popular is Twin Sisters, a pair of tall columns rising from a huge rock base with the general outlines of human figures.

A diversity of plant life can be found at the Palisades. The deep ravines are filled with ferns and the bases of the cliffs are covered with rare and interesting plants, shrubs and trees. In the spring and summer the valleys and slopes flourish with violets, bluebells, lobelias, bellworts and trilliums. A stand of white birch is in the northern section of the park.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Numerous picnic tables, water and sanitary facilities are located throughout the park. Shelter houses and playgrounds are located at various places throughout the Park.

Camping: 241 numbered tent and trailer sites are available. Sites are restricted to one unit per site. There are 3 utility buildings with showers and flush toilets open from May 1 until October 31. Water hydrants are located at various points. There are 105 electric hook-ups and 2 trailer dump stations. Entry to the campgrounds is restricted to campers. No admittance from 12 midnight to 6 A.M. Reservations are not accepted.

A youth camping area is also available; groups of over 25 persons must have advance permission to enter the park. All campers must obtain a permit at the camp registration building before entering the campground. Sorrel campground, an area apart from the regular campground, is maintained for overnight camping for horse and rider.

Boating and Fishing: There are free launching ramps at the river access area. Boat rentals are available from the private concessionaire and there are no motor size limits. All fishing is done on the Mississippi River and its backwaters, with bluegill, crappie and bass being the most commonly caught fish, although the experienced fisherman can catch walleye and northern pike.

Winter Sports: Ice fishing is permitted at the boat launch area if the ice is thick enough. Sledding and crosscountry skiing on the hills is a popular winter pastime.

Trails: Eight miles of well marked hiking trails lead the visitor from the Mississippi River flood plain to the top of the Palisades. Trails atop the Palisades afford the hiker sweeping vistas of the Mississippi River. Lookout Point, easily accessible by automobile or hiking trail, has an observation platform built atop the bluffs. Some of the park trails parallel close to the bluff line; please watch your step and keep small children with you when crossing these areas.

Horse Trails: Limited trails are available; no horse rentals. Sorrel campground is maintained for over-night camping.

Hunting: The Park has Bow and Shotgun Hunting for Deer and Turkey. Much of the camping and day use areas are closed during the 3 day Deer Shotgun Season for safety.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For additional information or details contact Mississippi Palisades State Park, 4577 Rte. 84 North, Savanna, IL, 61074 or phone 815-273-2731. Regular Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Monday through Friday. Office is closed on Saturday and Sunday and Holidays.

For information on other sites, write the Illinois Department of Conservation, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

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Illinois
Department of
Conservation
life and land together

To Hanover
12 Miles

Mill Hollow Road

High

point Trail

High Point Trail

Goldenrod A

Aspen

Bittersweet Trail

Aspen

Deer

Ridge Road

Rocktop
PARK OFFICE

Marina

North Park Entrance

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Route 84

Camp Ground

CONCESSION

Sunset Trail

Lookout Point

South Park Entrance

Sentinel

Pine Trail

Indian Head Rock

Upton's Trail

Heron

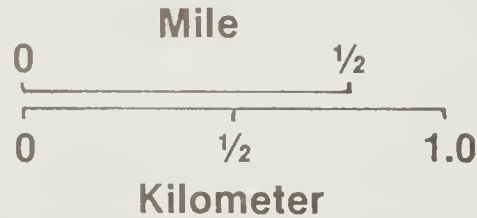
Upton's Cave

To Savanna
3 Miles



Mississippi Palisades State Park

- Overlooks ★
- Paved Roads ———
- Hiking Trail - - - - -
- Private Property ·····
- Campground
- Primitive Camps A B C



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